

177. (new) The system of Claim 93 wherein said information is gathered by said computer over an Internet connection.

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178. (new) The system of Claim 93 wherein said computer comprises a user interface, wherein said software is further operable to gather at least a portion of said information through said user interface.

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179. (new) The system of Claim 178 wherein said user interface comprises at least one member from the group consisting of a query form, a button, a touchscreen, a display screen, and a paper form reader with an associated paper form.

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#### **REMARKS - General**

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By the above preliminary amendment, applicants have corrected typographical errors in the specification and supplied additional claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to define the invention patentably over the prior art.

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#### **Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance**

Applicants have amended the claims of this application so that they are in proper form, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason this


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application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

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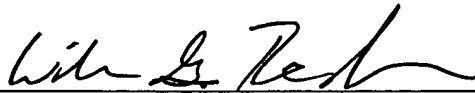
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2004 Nov 29



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**Attachement: Appendix to Amendment A With Replacement Paragraphs Marked-Up to Indicate Changes**

**Appendix to Amendment A**

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With Replacement Paragraphs Marked-Up to Indicate Changes

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With Replacement Paragraphs Marked-Up to Indicate Changes

5 Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

10 Pursuant to Rule 121, the following is a copy of all  
paragraphs amended by the attached Attachment A, with all  
the changes indicated by bracketing deletions and  
underlining additions:

15 Paragraph 0017, replace with the following new paragraph:

--The Walt Disney theme parks make use of a  
system called ["FastPass,"] FASTPASS® described  
by Laval et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 6,173,209.  
20 Visitors to a park can either enter the regular  
queue for an attraction, or they can obtain an  
express pass to use the express queue. The  
express pass has a time period during which it is  
valid. The visitor must present the express pass  
25 during the indicated time period in order to  
bypass the queue and be admitted to the  
attraction. Obtaining an express pass is achieved  
by the visitor presenting an ID of some sort, to  
a kiosk near the ride. An express pass is issued,  
30 bearing the next available reservation time. No  
further express passes will be issued to an ID

until the existing express pass has expired.  
Thus, a "first-come, first-served" virtual queue  
is created, and the visitor can be in only one  
virtual queue at a time.

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Paragraph 0024, replace with the following new paragraph:

--Another disadvantage of systems like Laval and  
Mahoney, is that they do not mitigate unequal  
10 demand for various attractions. An extremely  
popular attraction may find that its ["FastPass"]  
FASTPASS® reservations for the entire operating  
day are dispensed within an hour of the  
facility's opening. Meanwhile, other attractions  
15 may not exhaust their allotment of reservations.

Paragraph 0037, replace with the following new paragraph:

--A system or method is needed that allows [a] an  
20 unfamiliar visitor to receive a near optimal  
experience, suited to his (or his party's)  
tastes, schedule, needs, and limitations. The  
experience should give a proper overview of the  
facility, so a tourist does not return feeling  
25 that they have missed a key element.

Paragraph 0073, replace with the following new paragraph:

--In addition to the above, it is an object of  
30 this invention to accommodate attractions of  
various types. This includes specifically located

attractions, such as rides, lookout points,  
diffusely located attractions such as a fireworks  
display or parade, or multiply located  
attractions such as shopping or dining. It  
5 includes discretely scheduled attractions, such  
as theaters with specific show times,  
continuously available attractions (e.g. a  
fountain), and attractions with limited  
[availablility] availability (e.g. a trail that  
10 closes 1/2 hour before sundown).

Paragraph 0148, replace with the following new paragraph:

--Optionally, a pass form 600 may recognize a  
15 sequence of touch operations that an attraction  
operator may perform that will expend a displayed  
pass for the current event. An example of such a  
touch operation (not shown) would be drawing a  
large circle on touchscreen 140 clockwise, from  
20 the top, while pass form 600 is displayed. This  
might be followed by three taps in the center of  
the circle, and another large circle, but drawn  
counterclockwise from the top. Such a gesture, or  
other method for entering a security code, many  
25 of which are known to the art, would make a mark  
(not shown) [the] to indicate that the displayed  
pass has been "spent". Usually this is not  
necessary, as experiencing an attraction often  
takes longer than the period for which a pass is  
30 valid. Further, upon exiting an attraction there  
will generally be another event in the itinerary

and the party will not have time to re-enter the attraction for a repeat experience.

Paragraph 0155, replace with the following new paragraph:

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--Alternatively, the party may be supplied with a printed series of pass forms 600, making essentially a customized ticket book, having the same information printed on each paper pass as was displayed on the analogous electronic version (except time-of-day 410). If desired by facility operations, single person passes can be generated for each individual in a party, rather than one multi-person pass for the whole party. To deter fraud and perhaps enable mechanical devices known to the art to control access to the attraction, the [authetication] authentication code or signature on pass form 600 (not shown) may be expressed in printed form as a barcode. This embodiment is particularly attractive if it closely resembles the attraction admission media already extant in a facility. When appropriate to the access control system, the event data related to the printed pass forms is inserted as records into the access control databases of the prior art such as Laval, et al. The authentication codes, on the printed pass forms expressed as printed barcodes, are also recorded. By so doing, the printed passes can function as if they were attraction admission media of the prior art, thereby allowing admission media of the present

invention to function as, and in parallel with,  
admission media of the prior art.

Paragraph 0156, replace with the following new paragraph:

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--In a similar embodiment, a party is issued an  
identification card or, if preferred by the  
facility operator, a card is issued to each  
individual in a party. In the same manner as  
10 above, event data is inserted as records into the  
database of the prior art such as Mahoney et al.,  
and tied to the cards issued to the party. In  
this manner, the cards [issue] issued to the  
party operate as, and in parallel with,  
15 attraction access media of the prior art.

Paragraph 0172, replace with the following new paragraph:

--For each attraction, attraction database 1000  
20 includes a theoretical hourly ride capacity  
(THRC) or other measure to indicate the capacity  
of an attraction to handle visitors. Such  
measures are well known in the art, and are  
commonly expressed as the number of [seat] seats  
25 in a ride vehicle times 3600 divided by the  
dispatch interval in seconds. For theaters or  
venues with specific, scheduled times when the  
attraction begins (like a parade or fireworks  
show), the holding capacity of the attraction  
30 venue may be used. For such attractions, a  
showtimes field 1024 indicates how many shows are

5 given during the day. This information is used to  
allocated demand evenly when creating  
itineraries. In another database (not shown), the  
actual start times for scheduled attractions are  
10 listed. For those attractions which are  
continuously running and which are not scheduled,  
the showtimes field 1024 contains "c", for  
continuously running. A zero would indicate that  
an attraction of either type is not available  
today.

Paragraph 0176, replace with the following new paragraph:

15 --Also, if queue delays are known to vary by hour  
or by facility attendance, these complexities can  
also be included. Rather than finding a simple  
number of seconds delay in queue field 1026,  
itinerary generation may access a function for  
the expected queue delay. Such a function may  
20 take as parameters the attraction, access class,  
the day's expected attendance, and time-of-day.  
Since the queue being examined is determined by  
the attraction and access class, the actual  
analysis is essentially reduced to the two-  
25 variable "attendance and time-of-day [product]  
produce what queue delay" problem. A function  
such as this could be built by selecting an  
appropriate surface to be fitted to empirical  
data gathered from the attraction. Operators of  
30 most facilities have such historical operational  
data readily available. Further, such a function



could access actual, current queue information as it becomes available and whenever an itinerary is revised.

5 Paragraph 0203, replace with the following new paragraph:

--One way of [insuring] ensuring that the allocated capacity of an attraction is not exceeded by itineraries generated which include  
10 that attraction, is to centrally manage itinerary generation. As the attraction capacity allocated to a visitor class during an interval is approached, a synthetic aversion factor is increased which lowers the desirability of  
15 inserting an event into an itinerary having a time in that interval for that attraction. When the capacity for an attraction during a particular interval has been reached, the synthetic aversion factor is such that the  
20 attraction is utterly undesirable.

Paragraph 0216, replace with the following new paragraph:

--It will be recognized that other functions,  
25 perhaps driven by [useage] usage data, attraction capacity, or other accumulated information can be constructed and used to diffuse or moderate demand.

30 Paragraph 0253, replace with the following new paragraph:

--Process 1400 will be recognized by those skilled in the art as a width-first locally-optimized search strategy. It will be obvious to those artists that some of the operations, such as determining the path having the shortest travel time are computationally expensive tasks. Further, it will be observed that the doubly nested loop makes the process presented into an  $O(n^2)$  problem. Both of these and other inefficiencies will be considered targets for optimization. It should be noted, however, that for small or moderate sized facilities such as the exemplary facility of map 800, the [combinametric] combinatorial issues are tractable with modern processor speeds. Some of the optimizations discussed in Libby, especially the binning techniques, will be found suitable for application to the itinerary generation process 1400.

Paragraph 0260, replace with the following new paragraph:

--Often, a group visiting a facility may wish to experience attractions separately, but later regroup for a meal. Subsequently, the group may break up again and continue to experience attractions and regroup again only at their departure time. Such [an] a desire can be accommodated by generating for each party the group breaks into, a first itinerary to which terminates at the common meal event (e.g.

5            "<lunch>", as if it were the "Exit" event  
previously discussed. Thus all first itineraries  
converge at the same meal event. A second  
itinerary is also generated for each party. The  
second itinerary picks up after the common meal  
event, but the generation of subsequent events  
retains the history of the events of the first  
itinerary, so that attractions are not  
duplicated. The second itineraries converge [a]  
10        at the common departure time.